

A Room with a View

One of the key charges of the shoreland management program is to preserve the natural scenic beauty found along Wisconsin's lakes and rivers. A University of Wisconsin - Extension survey of Wisconsin lakefront owners found that peace and quiet and enjoyment of natural beauty are by far the most important reasons Wisconsin lakefront owners give for owning lakefront property, with fishing and hunting also important.¹

In a 1998 Minnesota survey, waterfront property owners and lake users cited cabin and home development over 85 % of the time as the cause when they perceived a decline in the scenic quality on the lake they used the most. Other activities at the top list that resulted in a decline in scenic quality included installation of docks and boat lifts, and removal of trees and shrubs in the shoreland area.²

Current shoreland development standards limit tree and shrubbery cutting and require most structures be set back a minimum of 75 feet from the water's edge. These regulations are designed to preserve the natural appearance of shorelands as viewed from the water and minimize the obtrusiveness of structures along the shoreline. The effectiveness of current standards to achieve these goals is questioned however.



Sources

¹Korth, R., M. Dresen, and D. Snyder. 1994. *Lake Tides* survey. Wisconsin Lakes Program, University of Wisconsin-Extension. Stevens Point, Wis.

²Anderson, K.A., T.L. Kelly, C.A. Hagley, D.A. Jensen, and G.M. Kreag. 1999. *Summary Report on Public Perception of the Impacts, Use, and Future of Minnesota Lakes: Results of the 1998 Minnesota Lakes Survey*. A joint publication by the University of Minnesota Sea Grant Program (SH 1) and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Office of Management and Budget Services.